



## **Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington DRAFT NOTES**

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM via Zoom

Present: David White, Johanna Meyer George Stephans, Stephan Miller, Michael Ratner, Jenifer Tidwell, Ann LeRoyer.

Regrets: Mary Diaz-Przbyl, Cathy Garnett.

### **Agenda –**

1. **Check-ins and Observations** from around the Res.
  - a. We saw swans, geese, ducks- hooded mergansers, bufflehead as well as seagulls on the sand bar.
  - b. The signs leading to the Reservoir bypassing the currently closed Hurd Field were misplaced and they were adjusted to mark the path properly. There is a large sign in the middle of the beach- saying closed to swimming. It is not clear that the Paths are open. We could make a sign be a bit more welcoming.
  - c. The part in the berm that was sloped strongly has been levelled.
  - d. Talk about clearing the knotweed with Colonial Village to help clear. It is possible we can access some of the downed branches or backed up debris from the Colonial Village
2. Accepted **previous meeting notes** of January 2023
3. **Recent events**
  - a. A dense band of water chestnuts surrounds the shoreline, with residents asking about a possible clean up, Concern about how to gather these water chestnuts has been an ongoing interest. When do they start raising the dam and flooding those shorelines? Beach opens June 17th so Dam will likely go up a month before. David will check. (From Joe: The gate will not be closed before late March.) George will investigate harvesting options.
  - b. There was a discussion in ConCom about clearing the knotweed with volunteers from Colonial Village willing to help. It is also possible we can access some of the downed branches or backed up debris in Mill River from the Colonial Village.
  - c. Mill Brook cleanup- Water chestnuts and logs were pulled from Mill Brook at the Hurd field bridge. Volunteers pulled logs along Mill Brook just down from the wetlands and emergency spill way. This resulted in a 4-6 inch drop in water height.

#### 4. Garden plan updates

- a. Habitat Garden- New England Wetland Plants, and other are being ordered to arrive ready to go by April.
- b. March 11th -Site work -Prune the rose bushes- maintenance thorns but needs to be pruned back pruning shears, loppers, tarps, step ladders Jennifer, David and Johanna to work on roses.
- c. March 25th Pulling Invasive oriental bittersweet, seed plantings
- d. March/April Planting 100 plugs no need to worry about the frost dates with these natives(50% chance of frost as late as Apr 15th)
- e. Plant acquisitions ongoing Jenifer is ordering.

4. **Website update** - <https://arlingtonreservoir.org/> Will add a Blog page. David will manage. Send material to him.

5. **Committee Roles**- Social Media ( Johanna to Reach out to Dan)

6. There is a **CPA grant application** to help restore **Mill Brook** next to the Res.

- a. See the FY24 Mill Brook application at: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/community-preservation-act-committee-cpac/applications>

#### 7. Future Activities

- a. Recruitment efforts – Consider use of social media. But needs someone to oversee it.
- b. Invasive plant control – need to coordinate with others re a garlic mustard pull.
- c. Eco Week – Around Earth Day April 22.
- d. Next Workdays - March 11, March 25, April 8
- e. Next Meetings - March 21 and April 18

#### 8. Envision Arlington Restructure

- a. How can they better serve? Arlington Reservoir benefits from the Town Day activities, and sponsorship. They also sponsor the brochure, oversight on environmental issues with the Environmental task group. They are a conduit to different Town of Arlington departments.

Version date: 2/22/23